



Janet Napolitano  
Governor

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Stephen A. Owens  
Director

## **NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DECISION TO ISSUE AN AMENDMENT TO AN AREA-WIDE AQUIFER PROTECTION PERMIT**

**Public Notice No.:18-09**

**Published on Thursday, December 25, 2008  
in the Arizona Business Gazette**

Pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code, Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 1, the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality intends to amend an area-wide individual Aquifer Protection Permit to the following applicant(s):

Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station  
5801 South Wintersburg Road  
Tonopah, Arizona 85354-7529

### **Aquifer Protection Permit No. 100388 and LTF Number 48337**

Arizona Public Service Company  
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS)  
P.O. Box 52034, M.S. 7626  
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2034

The Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS) is located west of Phoenix, Arizona. The power plant began operations in 1985 and is estimated to remain in operations for 40 years. PVNGS is operated by the Arizona Public Service Company (APS) and jointly owned by seven utility companies. The facility consists of electric generating units and cooling towers, solid waste handling and storage facilities (landfills), wastewater containment facilities (surface impoundments), a water reclamation facility and two storage reservoirs, plant operation and maintenance warehouse, and administration buildings. ADEQ is amending the previous area-wide permit to merge the separate individual Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) issued by ADEQ for the 180-acre Evaporation Pond 3 (cells A and B) with the Area-wide APP for the site, and to remove monitoring requirements for piezometers located in the dams of Evaporation Ponds 1 and 2. These piezometers are located in the footprint of construction for upgrading the two evaporation pond liner systems and are being abandoned to allow construction to proceed and improvements to be made to the wastewater containment system under the compliance schedule of the permit.

A perimeter groundwater monitoring program is in place at the facility to protect off site uses of the drinking water aquifer. The amended permit requires the permittee to add more monitoring wells to the perimeter monitoring network for improved coverage and early warning capabilities. Baseline groundwater data was used to establish levels in the permit used by the permittee for routine comparison with groundwater quality data. If the levels are exceeded in monitoring wells, the permit requires the permittee to notify ADEQ and perform contingency response actions to protect off-site groundwater uses. Additional groundwater monitoring wells will be installed by the permittee under a compliance schedule.

The draft permit and related documentation are available for public review, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at ADEQ, 1110 West Washington Street, Records Management Center, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007. Please call (602) 771-4380 in Phoenix or e-mail [RecordsCenter@azdeq.gov](mailto:RecordsCenter@azdeq.gov) and cc: [mir@azdeq.gov](mailto:mir@azdeq.gov) and [kkilgore@eectuc.com](mailto:kkilgore@eectuc.com) at least 3 days in advance to schedule an appointment to review the file. Request is to be by permit and LTF number. Persons may submit comments or request a public hearing on the proposed action, in writing, to Michele Robertson, Groundwater Section Manager, 1110 West Washington St, Phoenix, AZ 85007, within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice. A public hearing request must include the reasons for such request.

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